

## THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL

ANNA KLOPFENSTEIN

The Sunday-school is not, as many suppose, a modern institution, a little more than a century old. Its germ was in the world, living and active, more than two thousand years ago, and it has, from age to age, developed in various forms.

The germ of the Sunday school does not consist in its meeting, on any special day, nor in its organization into classes, nor in its name.

It consists in the gathering together of people, young and old, but especially of the young, for the study of the word of God. There was a Sunday school in these essential elements, among the ancient Israelites, for in Deuteronomy we find: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and thou shalt talk with them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou sittest up."

Let us consider what the Sunday-school is. Dr. Vincent says, "The Sunday-school is a department of the church of Christ, in which the word of Christ is taught, for the purpose of bringing souls to Christ and of building up souls in Christ."

Let us examine this definition. From it we learn: (1) That the Sunday-school is a department of the church of Christ. It is not a voluntary institution; it is neither a social club nor a literary society. (2) It is connected with the church of Christ, and under the church's fostering care. (3) It adopts the teaching method, not the lecture method. It is a Sunday-school meeting on the Lord's day. Hence its exercises should be appropriate to the day, consecrated to the service of Christ. (4) It aims first of all to bring souls to Christ, to make its pupils, young and old, disciples of Christ. But its work does not end here; for then begins the more important work of building up souls in Christ, the process of spiritual education, and the development of a complete Christian character. We as teachers should think of this. The noblest work on earth is to train a soul for heaven; and no small part of this is done by the faithful Sunday-school teacher. We should remember that the influence of our work in the Sunday-school will go on forever.

Many a soul has been saved by the faithful Christian Sunday-school worker. No doubt many of you recall some grand lessons of a noble teacher whose influence has made you better day by day. Especially is this true of those who taught us in our childhood. How important then that the Sunday-school worker should be fully consecrated to the service of Christ. Kind friends, let us study our lessons more, be kinder and more sociable.

Smithville, O.

Prudence is a heathen virtue; it needs conversion.

## Church News

Homerville, O.

I am requested to report to you for our church paper as follows; We of the Homer church with some members of the Fair Haven church, viz P. J. Brown and wife, M. Painter and wife, D. B. Good and wife and John Feters and daughter participated in a feast of love and communion services, it was a grand, good and enjoyable meeting. Bro. Brown led. It seemed so much like feasts of years ago to have the good old brethren exhort us to be faithful until death, and to hear him comment on footwashing, etc.

Our church house was well filled with spectators and onlookers, in fact a few had to be content by standing on their feet for want of seats, but for all that everyone present seemed to enjoy the meeting and the order was good considering the crowded room. On Sunday forenoon Brother Brown preached for us, the old brother has not lost any of his earnestness. Come again Bro. Philip.

In conclusion the Homer Church has nothing to boast of except that the Lord has been very kind and merciful to us for which she ought to give Him thanks. Our S. S. is doing fairly well. The interest in the K. C. is fully as good as at any previous time since its organization. Our prayer meeting is not as largely attended as it should be, but our pastor seldom fails to attend prayer meeting which speaks well for him, there are others who are very zealous in this good work but some of us (including self) are too easily made believe that we are getting old and very much tired when Thursday evening comes. Now brother and sister if possible attend the prayer meeting for it will pay and will encourage your pastor. If your pastor needs prayer meeting you do too. D. J. MYERS.

## Gas Belt Items

Like one awakened from pleasant dreams and wonderingly set about his daily task so seems the memory of our later conference. The remembrance of which shall be for years to come an occasion of gratitude and joy. In the memory of it we thank God and take courage to be more earnest and aggressive in the work. We can never feel thankful enough that so many of the brethren and sisters of the state responded to our appeal and came against great hindrance. Eternity alone will reveal the good you did by coming. We know how much brighter is the way, how much lighter the burden, how much more the brethren and sisters of the gas-belt feel like working for the upbuilding of the church. Many stones have been rolled away, and already we feel the throbbing of new life in our spiritual pulse.

There is greater activity manifested in all departments of the church, both here and at Maple Grove. Two members were added to the Endeavor Society last Sunday evening. Our Oakville Endeavours are making excellent record in mission work. Since being called to the evangelist work of the district I felt obliged to let go some of my pastoral

work. Because the Bethel brethren wished services twice a month, and I could not give it and do anything for the district, much against our own pleasure we refused to hold the work any longer. We were just getting well enough acquainted to do a good work. I found them a kind hearted people and our work tho hindered by sickness and otherwise has been in a measure successful and very pleasant. We believe their desire for services twice a month an indication of greater zeal and spiritual activity. We shall remember with grateful heart their many kindnesses and tho not directly in touch with them our interests are still their interests and for them our prayers shall still ascend.

The Lord willing we expect to have Bro. Talley hold a Bible conference at Maple Grove about the 1st of Dec. At the close of which we will hold a revival. On the 28th of Oct. we will begin our state work. We expect to be in the field about ten days. Our object shall be to visit some of the weaker churches, to see how and in what manner they can be best helped to increase in both power and number. By the grace of God I shall endeavor to make strong the weak, and to repair the breach in the wall that we need not stand with shamed faces before our enemies. I have given myself to God for this work. He needs your cooperation as well as mine. Shall he have it? I believe he shall. L. W. DITCH.

## Montour, Iowa

I attended the Illiokota district meeting at Leon, Iowa. We had a good meeting. Everything passed off pleasant. Got home in time for regular services at our church. Six came out to identify themselves with the church, two by relation, two by baptism, and two yet to be baptized in the near future. We think the prospects for more to come is encouraging. We held our communion the 21. The tables were full. We will have to make more room. Pray for us.

FETTER HALL.

## Milford, Ind.

My pen has been silent for some time past. I will give a few items of the past. God has blessed us in so many ways that we feel like praising him all day long. He has cared for us when in trouble. He comes to us in a still small voice and speaks to us, "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." What a joy it is to trust in Jesus. He gives us life and light. I was made to say, "Not my will, but thine, O Lord be done." Help us all to be more submissive to thy will. I attended the State conference at Oakville, Ind. It was a grand and good conference, because of the true spirit that seemed to pervade every heart that was there. Brother Gnagey gave us a grand sermon. We heard so many good things while we were there. May God's blessing rest with all his people who try to do his holy will.

We held our fall communion on last Thursday evening. We did not have as many to